

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 and 18 are pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 13-15 have been amended, claims 12 and 16 have been cancelled and claim 18 has been added. Claim 12 has been cancelled as being directed to a non-elected invention, while claim 16 has been cancelled to prevent a redundancy with amended claims 1 and 13, and claim 17 has been cancelled to prevent a redundancy with newly added claim 18. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The amendments made herein to the claims do not incorporate new matter into the application as originally filed. For example, support for the amendments made herein to claims 1 and 13, occurs in the specification at page 7, (e.g., see lines 16-18), and in prior claim 16, now cancelled. Support for newly added claim 18 occurs in prior claim 17 (now cancelled), and at page 13, line 20 of the specification.

Accordingly, entry of the instant amendment is respectfully requested, since the amendments present rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal, and do not raise substantial new issues for the Examiner's consideration.

Rejections Under 35 USC § 102 and/or 103

Claims 1, 9-10 and 13-17 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 USC § 103(a) as obvious over JP 2000-212866 (JP '866). Claims 2 and 1 have been rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP '866 in view of Kakiuchi et al. (WO 01/52713). Claims 3-8 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP '866, further in view of Kobayashi et al. (EP 926,288). These rejections are respectfully traversed based on the following considerations.

The Present Invention and Its Advantages

The present invention is directed to a cleaning sheet, which comprises a non-woven fabric having 10 to 90% by weight of thick thermoplastic fibers having a fiber length of 2 to 15 mm and a fineness of 10 to 150 dtex, 1 to 50% by weight of thin thermoplastic fibers having a fiber length of 2 to 15 mm and a fineness of 0.5 to 5 dtex and 10 to 90% by weight of cellulosic fibers, said non-woven fabric having a number of tips of said thick thermoplastic fibers forming the non-woven fabric exposed on the surface of said cleaning sheet to have capability of scouring or scraping dirt off of a soiled surface, wherein said number of tips of said thick thermoplastic fibers is 20-4000/cm², having

intersections of said thick thermoplastic fibers being bonded by fusion or with a binder. *(See claim 1.)*

The present invention is also directed to a cleaning sheet, comprising a non-woven fabric having 10 to 90% by weight of thick thermoplastic fibers, said thick thermoplastic fibers having a fiber length of 2 to 15 mm and a fineness of 10 to 150 dtex, 1 to 50% by weight of thin thermoplastic fibers having a fiber length of 2 to 15 mm and a fineness of 0.5 to 5 dtex and said non-woven fabric having a number of tips of said thick thermoplastic fibers forming the non-woven fabric exposed on the surface of said cleaning sheet in the range of 20 to 4000/cm², and 10 to 90% by weight of cellulosic fibers, wherein said thick thermoplastic fibers are bonded at intersections thereof. *(See Claim 13.)*

The cleaning sheet according to the present invention exhibits excellent scouring or scraping properties against soil by its use of a non-woven fabric containing 10 to 90% by weight of thick thermoplastic fibers having a fiber length of 2 to 15 mm and a fineness of 10 to 150 dtex, and 1 to 50% by weight of thin thermoplastic fibers having a fiber length of 2 to 15 mm and a fineness of 0.5 to 5 dtex and 10 to 90% by weight of cellulosic fibers, wherein 20 to 4000/cm² tips of the thick fibers are exposed on the surface of the cleaning sheet. In addition, the cleaning sheet according to the present invention does

not scratch a surface to be cleaned. Applicants respectfully submit that the references relied on by the Examiner fail to teach or suggest the present invention and therefore are unable to accomplish the advantages of the present invention.

Distinctions Over the Cited Art

None of the cited art being relied on by the USPTO to support the outstanding rejections of the claims, teach or provide for a cleaning sheet as instantly claimed and in no way provide any motivation to arrive at the same.

More particularly, none of the cited art of JP '866, Kakiuchi et al. (WO 01/52713) or Kobayashi et al. (EP 926,288), teach or provide for a cleaning sheet containing the combination of (i) 10 to 90% by weight of *thick thermoplastic fibers* having a fiber length of 2 to 15 mm and a fineness of 10 to 150 dtex, (ii) 1 to 50% by weight of *thin thermoplastic fibers* having a fiber length of 2 to 15 mm and a fineness of 0.5 to 5 dtex (iii) 10 to 90% by weight of cellulosic fibers, and (iv) wherein 20 to 4000/cm² tips of the *thick fibers* are exposed on the surface of the cleaning sheet.

Accordingly, since the cited art references do not teach or otherwise provide for each of the limitations recited in the pending claims, it follows that the cited art cannot anticipate the same. Likewise, because the cited art references do not provide any motivation for that would allow one of ordinary

skill in the art to arrive at the instant invention as claimed, they cannot support an obviousness rejection of either one of independent claims 1 and 13.

With regard to dependent claims 2-11 and 14-15 and 18, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are allowable due to their respective dependence upon allowable independent claims 1 and 13, as well as due to the additional limitations recited by these claims.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-11 and 13-15 and 18 clearly define the present invention over the references relied on by the Examiner and are neither anticipated nor rendered obvious thereby.

CONCLUSION

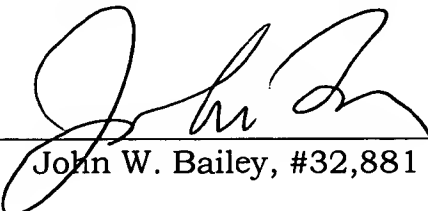
Based on the amendments and remarks presented herein the Examiner is respectfully requested to issue a notice of allowance indicating that the pending claims under consideration (Claims 1-11 and 13-15 and 18) are allowable.

If any questions remain regarding the above matters, please contact Applicant's representative John W. Bailey (Reg. No. 32,881), at the phone number listed below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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